

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 220

By Evans

A RESOLUTION to honor Cayden and Conner Long upon being named SportsKids of the Year.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize those young citizens who have shown wisdom beyond their years in overcoming adversity and while doing so have provided an inspirational example for us all; and

WHEREAS, Conner Long, who is nine years old, and his brother Cayden Long, who is seven, are two such outstanding youngsters; as Team Long Brothers, Cayden and Conner participate in children's triathlons together, which is in itself a heartwarming story, but their legacy is more enduring and teaches us important lessons about perseverance, sacrifice, and love; and

WHEREAS, Cayden was born with spastic cerebral palsy, and he cannot talk or walk without assistance; nevertheless his older brother, Conner, has discovered a way for Cayden to participate in sports; and

WHEREAS, after seeing an advertisement for the 2011 Nashville Kids Triathlon in a magazine, Conner asked his mother, Jenny, if he and Cayden could participate in the event together, and with her assistance they did; and

WHEREAS, displaying more maturity than many adults, Conner didn't focus on competing for honors in the race; he only wanted to finish the triathlon, regardless of place, and Team Long Brothers did just that; and

WHEREAS, for the swimming segment of the triathlon, Conner towed Cayden in a raft; in the biking competition, he pulled Cayden behind him in a cart; and in the running segment, he used the same cart to push his younger brother across the finish line; and

WHEREAS, since that first event in Nashville, Team Long Brothers has competed in the Iron Kids Triathlon, the Jacksonville Kids Triathlon, and the New England Kids Triathlon in Cambridge, Massachusetts, among others, capturing hearts and earning praise from people across the nation; and

WHEREAS, participating in triathlons together has formed a special bond between Conner and Cayden, and Conner hopes that their participation helps raise public awareness about the difficulties faced by persons with special needs; and

WHEREAS, these events bring great joy to Cayden, because with the help of his brother, he has found success in life; that success likewise brings joy to his family, which also includes his mother and father, Jeff and Jenny Long, and youngest brother, Cooper; and

WHEREAS, Cayden and Conner Long were recently named SportsKids of the Year by *Sports Illustrated Kids*, an honor most befitting their inspirational example and ongoing commitment to brotherly cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the video of the Long family accepting the award at the *Sports Illustrated Kids* awards ceremony in New York has more than 250,000 shares on Facebook, proof positive that Conner and Cayden have brought a collective smile to the face of a grateful nation; and

WHEREAS, the Long family is very appreciative of the outpouring of support they have received, but they aren't really surprised by Conner and Cayden's success, because they know that anything can be accomplished with the help of loved ones; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Cayden and Conner Long upon being named SportsKids of the Year by *Sports Illustrated Kids*, thank them for all they have taught us about life, and wish them much continued success in their next triathlon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.